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MEMORANDUM

September 21, 1957

TO: General Administrative Distribution List
JCPD, Livermore and BerkeleyFROM: Classification Section
JCPD, Livermore

In view of the announcement by the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense on the 1958 Pacific tests fall day, we have been instructed by Washington that no elaboration of the test program will be given.

In the interest of a safeguarded disarmament agreement, negotiations are under way by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense for a series of nuclear tests to begin in April, 1958, at the Enewetak Provin, Group I, the Pacific. The United States repeatedly has stated its will that such a suspend nuclear tests as part of a disarmament agreement. Until such an agreement is attained, continued development of nuclear weapons is essential to the defense of the United States and of the free world.

The forthcoming series will enhance the level of "readiness" for defense against aggression whether direct or missile-borne or otherwise mounted. Information on the effects of weapons will be obtained for military and civilian defense use. Test operations will be governed by the declaration made in the Bermuda Communiqué on October 14, 1956, of the intention of the United States 'to conduct nuclear tests only in such manner as will keep world radiation from rising to more than a small fraction of the levels that might be hazardous'.

An important objective of the tests will be the further development of nuclear weapons with greatly reduced radioactive fallout so that radiation hazard may be restricted to the military target. This principle was first proved in the Pacific Test Series of 1950.

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